



ACT Council of Parents & Citizens Associations

The parent voice on public education

Minutes

Early Learning Committee Meeting
March 2, 7.30 pm,
online via zoom

Council's Early Learning Subcommittee provides a forum for ACT's junior primary school parents and communities. The committee promotes the benefits of quality early learning and advocates for EL parents and public education.

To register for future subcommittee meetings or download previous minutes go here: [Meeting summaries](#). Contact the Early Learning Officer via [email](#) or phone 02 6241 5759. Visit Council's [website/EL](#).

1. Open/Apologies

7.35 pm

MS welcomes new ELPRs

Council welcomes Jess, the new Early Learning Parent Representative for Mawson P&C, and also Prudence, to Charnwood Dunlop P&C.

Acknowledgement of Country.

Introduction to P&C Council, Early Learning Subcommittee background, Terms of Reference, training announcements.

2. Early Learning - to share with parents/invite participation:

What's happening in the Sector - Strategy and Consultations

a. **National Early Years Strategy**

The Australian Government is developing an [Early Years Strategy](#) in recognition of how important the early years are for children's development and success over their lifetime. Parents can participate via the online [survey](#) (Q's attached fyi), *extended until March 31*. (Discussion Paper Language translations available for families: Arabic, Chinese, Filipino, French, Greek, Hindi, Italian, Korean, Macedonian, Samoan, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Auslan version).

National Productivity Commission Public Inquiry ECEC

To identify solutions for providing universal, affordable ECEC. Comment or read the Terms of Reference/comments/submissions [here](#).

b. **ACT Early Childhood Strategy: Set up for Success**

Launched in 2020, the ACT's ten-year plan for early childhood education and care aims to ensure early childhood education is:

- high-quality, accessible, and affordable
- connected with other education, community and health services
- able to meet every child's needs.

[Report on the Key initiatives of the Strategy under Phase One](#) (summary P4):

1. Workforce strategy, 2. Recognising ECE in ACT Law, and 3. Delivering the new Preschool Reform Agreement (2022-2025).

3. Communication planning 2023

P&C activities – welcoming new parents

Each year P&Cs (PPAs) provide a range of innovative, welcoming activities for families and their young learners as they begin preschool or kindergarten. We've seen coffee carts, pancakes, playdough, footpath chalk art, photo frames and school backdrops to mark those first days of school. Transitions last longer than a few days so P&Cs play an important role in welcoming families, providing a friendly face or information, and facilitating parent and family networks.

- a. Council's [content planning template](#) (for early learning) has relevant events, and related links, already *pre-entered*. Further customisation is completed by deciding 'what to add or commit to, what to acknowledge or comment on, and what to ignore for the current year'. The pre-entered event links provide resources and ideas (and occasionally funding) to support activities. The template's communication schedule facilitates community building through repeatable themes ie 'Welcome, Play, Connect.'

Many primary school P&Cs have a role for an early years parent representative (or a class / year group rep). Our draft [role description](#) is available for P&Cs to help define their early learning focus and objectives.

- b. Contact Marina, Council's early learning officer for further questions.

4. Supporting new EL parents

Volunteer recruitment – Council has designed a series of Facebook tile [templates](#) available via a free [Canva](#) account (Canva is a powerful, simple to use, media design application). Tutorials are available.

For parent resources to share with your school's new parents please see Council's parent [Reference guide](#).

[Council's information sheets](#) provide more information on engaging parents in school communities #1+#2.

5. Council's ELSC

Terms of Reference and budget

Early Learning Subcommittee Terms of Reference

- Promote the importance of preschool education to ACT families,
- Support parent engagement in early years learning,
- Support families to complete online enrolment for preschool,
- Provide information, training and support services to associations
- Advise Council Executive and meetings on policy and matters relating to ACT preschool/early childhood education,
- Provide input to Council submissions on preschool issues,
- Provide representatives on behalf of Council to related external forums, committees, advisory/working groups or task forces.
- Provide updates to the Education Directorate on activities
- Maintain the early learning subcommittee.

ELSC budget

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ACT Council of Parents Citizens Assoc

Job Profit & Loss Statement

July 2022 To February 2023

Sports House
100 Maitland Street
Hackett ACT 2602

ABN: 53 870 517 949

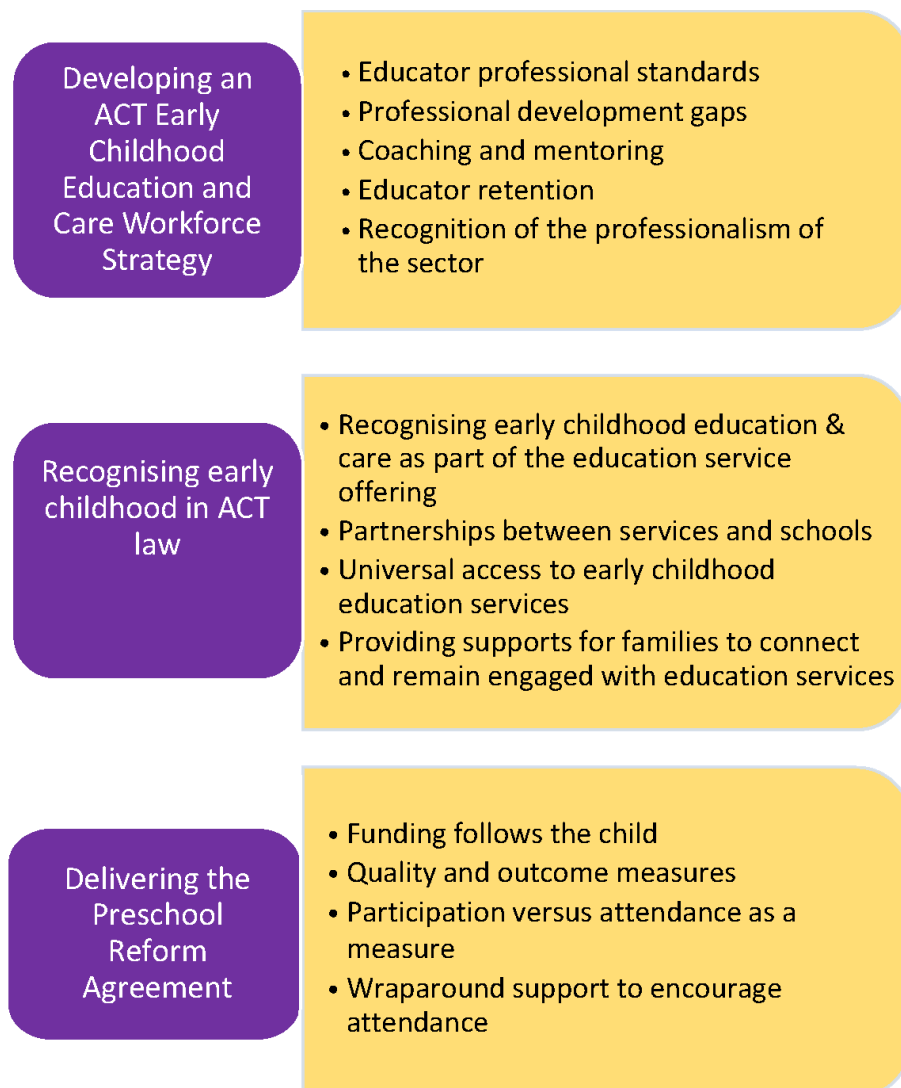
Email: admin@actparents.org.au

Account Name	Selected Period
EL	Early Learning
Expense	
Audit/Accounting (MYOB)	\$125.00
Dues & Subscriptions	\$70.00
Internet & Web Development	\$315.00
Insurance	\$50.00
Photocopying	\$39.00
Postage	\$21.00
Stationery & Office Supplies	\$272.00
Telephone Expenses	\$122.00
Wages & Salaries	\$20,912.78
Superannuation	\$2,195.85
Workers Comp Insurance	\$313.68
Staff & Member Training/Conferences	\$350.00
Total Expense	\$24,786.31
Net Profit/(Loss)	-\$24,786.31

Set up for Success: Phase 1 consultations

General discussion points

The following general discussion points framed the consultation process:



National Early Years Strategy – Survey until March 31

The Australian Government is developing an Early Years Strategy, in recognition of the vital importance of the first five years of every child's life. We need your input to help reflect the priorities of families for the Strategy – including parents, expectant parents, grandparents, carers and other family members. We are also interested in hearing from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples, people with disability, culturally and linguistically diverse community members, people living in rural and remote areas, and people from the LGBTQIA+ community. We are interested in your views on what the Australian Government should focus on under the Early Years Strategy.

This is a very short survey, and we are seeking further input from the public about their hopes and priorities for children in the early years through a separate submission process. More information can be found here: [Early Years Strategy | Department of Social Services, Australian Government \(dss.gov.au\)](#)

For the purposes of this survey, the period of the early years covers **0-5 years of age**.

Q1. What are your biggest hopes for children in the early years in Australia?

Word limit 50 words

Q2. Below is a list of things that help children to do well in life.

All of the following are important for children who are 0-5 years of age.

The following is an opportunity for you to share what you think the Australian Government should focus on first in the Early Years Strategy.

Pick up to four options.

	Pick up to four options
1) physical health	
2) emotional and mental health	
3) learning and development	
4) love and nurture	
5) a positive sense of identity and culture	
6) opportunities for play, rest and leisure	
7) material basics like water, housing, clothing and food	
8) strong and supportive families	
9) safety	
10) children having a say about the things that matter to them	

11) participation in social and community activities	
12) Other (please specify) Word limit 50 words	

Q3. To make Australia the best place to raise and be a child, what do you think are the two most important things the Australian Government can do, or do differently?

1)	Word limit 50 words
2)	Word limit 50 words

Q4. Are you...? (*Select all that apply*)

- 1) A pregnant or expectant parent
- 2) A parent or carer of a child/ren who is 0-2 years
- 3) A parent or carer of a child/ren who is 3-5 years
- 4) A parent or carer of a child/ren who is 6-15 years
- 5) A parent or carer of an older child/ren (16 and over)
- 6) A grandparent, aunty, uncle or other family member of children
- 7) From a government organisation
- 8) From a non-government organisation
- 9) From a for-profit organisation
- 10) A community member
- 11) Other (*Please specify*)

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- 12) Prefer not to say

***(Asked if Q4 (1), (2), (3), (4) and/or (5) is selected)**

Q4a. Are you....?	Yes	No	Prefer not to say
1) the primary parent/carer?			
2) a single parent/carer?			

***(Asked if Q4 (7), (8) and/or (9) is selected)**

Q4b. Do you....?

1) work directly with children aged 0-5 years and/or their families?

Yes No

2) work in another area relevant to early childhood? (*Please specify*)

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Q5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

Please select only one answer.

- 1) Postgraduate degree
- 2) Graduate diploma/certificate
- 3) Bachelor Degree (including honours)
- 4) Advanced diploma/diploma
- 5) Certificate III/IV (including trade certificate)
- 6) Secondary Education – Years 10 and above
- 7) Secondary Education – Years 9 and below
- 8) Primary Education - Year 6 or below
- 9) Never attended school
- 10) Prefer not to say

Q6. What is your postcode?

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Q7. What is your age?

- 1) 15 – 24
- 2) 25 – 34
- 3) 35 – 44
- 4) 45 – 54
- 5) 55 – 64
- 6) 65 – 74
- 7) 75 +
- 8) Prefer not to say

Q8. What gender do you identify as?

- 1) Male
- 2) Female
- 3) Other (*Please specify*)

- 4) Prefer not to say

Q9. Do you identify as....? (*Select all that apply*)

- 1) Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- 2) Culturally and linguistically diverse
- 3) A person with disability
- 4) LGBTQIA+

End